

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

§ 2.500

interstate pipeline, or both acting together, have made an innocent misrepresentation of fact; and

(2) Because of that innocent misrepresentation of facts, the amount paid by the interstate pipeline to any first seller of natural gas was higher than it would have been absent the innocent misrepresentation of fact.

(Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-621, 92 Stat. 3350, (15 U.S.C. 3301-3432))

[47 FR 6262, Feb. 11, 1982]

STATEMENT OF INTERPRETATION UNDER THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978

§ 2.400 Statement of interpretation of waste concerning natural gas as the primary energy source for quali- fying small power production faci- ties.

For purposes of deciding whether natural gas may be considered as waste as the primary energy source pursuant to § 292.204(b)(1)(i) of this chapter, the Commission will use the criteria described in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this section.

(a) *Category 1.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, natural gas with a heating value of 300 Btu per standard cubic foot (scf) or below will be considered unmarketable.

(b) *Category 2.* In determining whether natural gas with a heating value above 300 Btu but not more than 800 Btu per scf and natural gas produced in the Moxa Arch area is unmarketable, the Commission will consider the following information:

(1) The percentages of the chemical components of the gas, the wellhead pressure, and the flow rate;

(2) Whether the applicant offered the gas to all potential buyers located within 20 miles of the wellhead under terms and conditions commensurate with those prevailing in the region and that such potential buyers refused to buy the gas; and

(3) A study, which may be submitted by an applicant, that evaluates the economics of upgrading the gas for sale and transporting the gas to a pipeline. The study should include estimates of the revenues which could be derived from the sale of the gas and the fixed and variable costs of upgrading.

(c) *Category 3.* In determining whether natural gas with a heating value above 800 Btu per scf is marketable, the Commission will consider the information included in paragraph (b) of this section and whether:

(1) The gas has actually been flared, vented to the atmosphere, or continuously injected into a non-producing zone for a period of one year, pursuant to legal authority; or

(2) The gas has been certified as waste, *i.e.*, suitable for disposal, by an appropriate state authority.

[Order 471, 52 FR 19310, May 22, 1987]

STATEMENT OF PENALTY REDUCTION/ WAIVER POLICY TO COMPLY WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY EN- FORCEMENT FAIRNESS ACT OF 1996

§ 2.500 Penalty reduction/waiver pol- icy for small entities.

(a) It is the policy of the Commission that any small entity is eligible to be considered for a reduction or waiver of a civil penalty if it has no history of previous violations, and the violations at issue are not the product of willful or criminal conduct, have not caused loss of life or injury to persons, damage to property or the environment or endangered persons, property or the environment. An eligible small entity will be granted a waiver if it can also demonstrate that it performed timely remedial efforts, made a good faith effort to comply with the law and did not obtain an economic benefit from the violations. An eligible small entity that cannot meet the criteria for waiver of a civil penalty may be eligible for consideration of a reduced penalty. Upon the request of a small entity, the Commission will consider the entity's ability to pay before assessing a civil penalty.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, the Commission reserves the right to waive or reduce civil penalties in appropriate individual circumstances where it determines that a waiver or reduction is warranted by the public interest.

[Order 594, 62 FR 15830, Apr. 3, 1997]